

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0275

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, OTRA, (SHELTON, SALLY), NA
SUBJECT: DEP ASST SEC'Y SHELTON'S VISIT TO NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES

REF: SURBER-PENBERTHY TELECON APRIL 7

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED YOUR VISIT WITH MINISTER PRESIDENT ROZENDAL AND EXPLAINED ITS PURPOSE. MAY 24-27 DATES ARE AGREEABLE.
2. ROZENDAL WANTS YOU TO VISIT ARUBA. HE SAID HE WAMTS YOU TO SEE HOW THINGS ARE DEVELOPING AFTER CURRENT VISIT BY THE NETHERLANDS' MINISTER FOR ANTILLEAN AFFAIRS VAN DER STEE. CLEARLY ROZENDAL ALSO WANTS TO AVOID CHARGE BY ARUBANS (READ BETICO CROES) THAT THEY WERE DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THEIR CASE DIRECTLY TO HIGH-RANKING DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL.
3. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU ERIC KLEINMOEDIG, WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF NAG PLANNING, VISIT WILL ALSO INCLUDE BRIEF PERIOD ON BOMAIRE. NAG APPARENTLY HAS IT IN MIND PRACTICALLY TO REPLICATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT.
4. KLEINMOEDIG SAID THAT NAG FORESEES TALKS WITH ROZENDAL,
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MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MAURITS LARMONIE, AND MINISTER FOR WELFARE AFFAIRS MIGUEL POURIER. KLEINMOEDIG DESCRIBED TALK WITH POURIER AS "WORKING SESSION." OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TALKS WOULD BE KLEINMOEDIG, DIRECTOR OF TAXES (AND FUTURE NAG REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON) HAROLD HENRIQUEZ, AND ULRICO REALE. MEETING WITH CURACAO ISLAND COUNCIL IS TENTATIVELY ON SCHEDULE. YOU CAN COUNT ON MEETING WITH ARUBA ISLAND

COUNCIL AS WELL.

5. IN LIGHT OF ROZENDAL'S VIEW ON VISIT TO ARUBA, I BELIEVE YOU WILL WANT TO GO. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO. YOU WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO BE PUT, AS PRESIDENT ANDRES PEREZ WAS, IN EMBARRASSING POSITIONS. ON HIS ARIVAL IN ARUBA CROES AND OTHERS REFUSED TO SHAKE HANDS WITH GOVERNOR LEITO AND ROZENDAL, PEREZ'S OFFICIAL HOSTS IN COUNTRY AND ESCORTS. AT LUNCHEON CROES SAID HE COULDN'T APPROVE THE THEN JUST-SIGNED BOUNDARY TREATY BECAUSE HE HAD NOT SEEN IT. PEREZ WAS FAVED WITH CHOICE OF AGREEING AND INSULTING LEITO AND ROZENDAL OR OF DISAGREEING AND DESTROYING HARMONY AND AURA OF GOODWILL THAT THE VISIT WAS ALL ABOUT. (PEREZ SAID NOTHING, BUT REPORTEDLY WAS OUTRAGED AND LEFT LUNCHEON BEFORE PLATES HAD BEEN CLEARED.) EVERYONE HERE HOPES THAT CROES WILL REALIZE WHAT A GAFFE HE MADE AND WILL NOW BEHAVE HIMSELF. BUT I DON'T COUNT ON THAT.

6. JUDGING FROM KLEINMOEDIG'S CONCEPTION OF VISIT, IT IS CLEAR THAT NAG IS GOING ALL OUT. I BELIEVE YOUR INTERLOCUTORS MAY WELL STEER TALKS FROM GENERAL GROUND OF U.S. INITIATIVE ON CARIBBEAN TO PLEA FOR DIRECT U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. ALMOST CERTAINLY THEY WILL PLEAD FOR REVISION OF ENTITLEMENTS LEGISLATION. THEY WANT TO REMOVE COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE IN U.S. MARKET FOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS THAT ANTILLEAN REFINERIES NOW SUFFER IN RELATION TO THEIR CARIBBEAN COMPETITORS ON PUERTO
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RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS.
PENBERTHY

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